## THE CHIMES OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas of the Year One and that of Eighteen Hundred and Seventy-nine.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE CHURCHES

The Lesson of the Day-What to Do-Where to Go-How To Be Merry.

PROGRAMME OF TO-DAY'S MUSIC.

ound the full globe the salutation sounds, and "Merry Christmas" is the watchward of the day. nere are, however, Christmases and Christmasesjolly and sad, sombre and glad. From the star atched morning, when the Judean shepherds kept their flocks upon the hilltop and the angel of the Lord poured his glory all around them, to the pres ent hour, when we celebrate the "birth of Him that no beginning knew," is, comparatively speaking, along time. The earth and all there is thereon have ndergone phenomenal changes since then, and as the Edisonian promise of electricity is to the oil soaked wick of the ancients so is the Christmas of 1879 to that of the first year of the Christian era. That we have some things in common with the people of former times is evidenced by the Holy Seriptures, which say, "And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Cresar Augustus that all the world should taxed." And when Casar Augustus said a thing he meant it-a circumstance to which is du toric fact that the Saviour was born in Bethle on, to which place Joseph and Mary had journeyed from Nazareth for the express purpose of xed. In these days we do these things with less inconvenience-the tax assessors come to us, not we to them. The hotel accommodations in Bethlehem were apparently of insufficient extent, for guests were compelled to seek refuge in the stables, to which awkwardness was due the significant fact that the King of Kings, disguised in babyhood, found room for them in the inn." Surely, that was and was not a merry Christmas

Surely, it was a fit type of all that have followed

Then, as now, the child element was the essential ingredient in the celebration of the day. Then, as now, parents and friends paid court to the baby and showered gifts upon it. Then, too, as now, the night before Christmas was an occasion of momentous

The night before the first Christmas! What a subject for a painter-to fail in.

It divides itself naturally into two parts—the Heavenly Court and the stable in Judea. The trumpet sounds, the skies are rolled away, and besold! a throne is set in heaven and One sits thereon And He that sits is to look upon like a jasper and a ardine stone; and there is a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne are four-and-twenty seats, upon the seats are four-and-twenty elders, sitting, clothed in white raiment, and on their heads are crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceed ghtnings and thunderings and voices, while seven aps of fire burn before the throne, which are the von Scriptures. Before this blazing throne there ses of glass like unto crystal, and in the mids of the throne and round about it stand four bessts all of eyes before and behind. Thousands and housands and tens of thousands, glorified beings, all gathered about the throne, and with the voice any angels sing, "Worthy the Lamb that was slain, to receive power and riches and wis-dom and strength and honor and glory and blosswhile the beasts and the elders and the hosts, those number was ten thousand times ten thousand ad thousands of thousands, fall down before the hrone and Him that sits thereon, saying, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

That Christ was the source and centre of angelic joy, and that His departure from these scenes of pomp and glory was the occasion of heavenly dem onstration, may well be credited.

It was the night before Christmas, the eve preced the final tragedy-

Whereat the heav'n put out his guilty eye
That durst behold so execrable sight,
And sabled all in black the shady sky;
And the pale stars, struck with unwonted fright,
Quenched their everlasting lamps in night.
And at His birth, as all the stars heav'n had
Were not enow, but a new star was made,
So now both new and eld and all away did fade.

Above the skies the heavens rang with anthems, and a procession of multitudes, so great that no man might number them, led by angels and archangels, with the everlasting trumpeters that stood at the four corners of the heavens, accompanied the sacred envoy to the very verge. He left his glittering crown and dropping like a star brought joy and weary travellers resting on the hay; while upon the adjacent hilltops the angels of the Lord that filled the very heavens rang out, praising him and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." THEN AND NOW.

From the blazing glories of an eternal throne to the dismal hospitality of an unheated stable was the greatess contrast over known, but in its extravagance it aptly typified the conditions of the race from the hour of Adam's fall to that of the Herald's going to press to-day. Up and down, rich and poor, happy and wretched, the great company of human martyrs come and go like puppets on the stage and one is rarely the better for their coming or the worse for their going. The world is so full of contradictions that wise men hesitate to say "A merry Christmas" to any but the children of the earth. To them a rag baby and a red cheeked apple bring as much pleasure as the gold, frankincense and myrrh of the magt did to the swalddled babe of 1,879 years ago. To them a present is an indication of good feeling, and not a token to be valued by dollars. And yot there is a difference, too, in children. The simplenrinded boys and maidens in a great measure have disappeared. The boy to whom a pair of skates and mittens would be a Christmas treat is gone. The girl to whom a pink sash, a pretty wax doll tiny ring would be a Christmas prize has moved away. Dollars and cents rule new where primitive simplicity once held away, and denors to be appreciated must make their givings large. Giory and squalor were Christ's experiences on

the night and morning of the original Christman Day; glory and squalor have been the conditions of the human race in all time. The millionnaire jostles the beggar, the bank president elbows the tramp. To no one can Christmas be always and for-ever "merry." Sickness, disappointment, death, are the portion of us ail, and in the magnificent mansion whose door is decked with crape there is much less merry Christmas to-day than in the broken windowed shanty of a defiant squatter on the Boulevard rocks. It is as foolish to say that externals are not conducive to happiness or its opposite as to urge that wealth and power invariably bring peace and contentment in their train. Externals have a great deal to do with the merriment of Christmas, and, other things being equal, the family that is well to do in this world's goods is more likely to have a jolly time to-day than the family whose head is in the clouds, while his cet, unshed, are covered with chilblains. In the spirit of the day-the spirit which in angelie phrase suggests peace and good will to men-it is to be hoped that common sense as well as common hu-manity will suggest to our readers that Christmas is a good time in which to remember the poor. In Cassar's time the Jews took care of the poor in spite of the taxes laid upon them by the Imperial Roman. Why shall not we, who are likewise burdened by

taxes, find equal pleasure in turning from a consideration of our own troubles and in relieving the wants of our less favored fellows? It would not be difficult for any of us to find some object for our

Great fleas have little fleas to bite 'cm, While little fleas have lesser fleas. And so ad infinitum.

And so ad infinitum.

The world is full of changes—again typified by
the menumental change of the ages; from glory to
squalor—and though we may be merry to-day we
may be downeast to-merrow.

He merry, man, and tak nought far in mynd.
The wavering of this wretched world at sorrow.
To Ged be humble, to thy friend be kind,
And with thy neighbors gladly lend and borrow;
His chance to-night, it may be thine to-merrow.
Fortunately in this favored land the very very

poor are not so numerous as they are in other coun-tries, though even here there is suffering the mere telling of which would make the cheek grow pale. In spite of Trinity's chimes, in spite of our glittering altars, in spite of our boasted charities, there
are humble homes in Gotham where the sunlight
never penetrates, where vice and crime go hand in
hand with youth, and blear-eyed babies take to gin
as to their mother's milk. Missionary societies
meet on swell occasions in brilliantly illumined meet on swell occasions in brilliantly illumined halls, grand bands of music pour forth glorious harmonies, and thunders of applause follow the glitter sums up the "good we and ours are doing."

With ravished ears
The monarch hears,
Assumes the god,
Affects the nod,
And seems to shake the spheres.

But he dosen't, and for all the good he or his society accomplish the poor need not strain to be grateful. There is no time like the present for a change in this as in other bad habits, and no man, save the hypocrite, can have the assurance to write

or talk of "Merry Christmas" unless he lets his works follow his tongue and his fellow's heart is cheered by some practical, tangible ovidence of good will. The self-sufficient man who advises peace of mind but who refuses a piece of broad insuits not alone the hungry one who asks relief, but makes a travesty of the great sacrifice of the ages and turns the example of his Saviour into ridicule. aside from the taxes and the giving of presents mas morning. The tax problem is so broad and deep and complicated as to preclude all possibility of

Henald is laid upon the table the Christmas gifts will have been received. What, then, is there to be done? The stores will be closed and the church doors will not be opened for hours. "Christmas is the family day of the year—the day for home com-

Certainly: but what if one has no home, or "home" is but a synonym for poverty and suffer

Where'er I take my walks abroad How many poor I see! What shall I render to my God For all His gifts to mo?

That's it. Take a walk abroad and recall the words goods and seeth his brother hath need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him," needn't call himself a Christian or think he can have a merry Christmas either here or hereafter. But on the other hand, while it may not be possible for individuals to accomplish, singly, as much as organ ized charity can do, there is an immensity of satisfaction and a degree of heart glow that discounts the flush of a Turkish bath, in doing something for others, eye to eye and hand to hand.

Blest is the man whose softening heart Feels all another's pain, To whom the supplicating eye Is never raised in vain.

Having cheered the home circle and extended the warm palm of unestentatious charity to such as attending service in some of the city churches—the Herald's columns point the way—where suitable ceremonials will commemorate the day on which was begun the fulfilment of the ancient prophecies and led to the solemn realities of Calvary. In one church the preaching will attract, in another the music will delight; here the sacred sacraments will elevate the soul, there the joyful anthems will to spire the heart. The Christ of Bethlehem's manger was not the Christ of to-day. Then He was a helpless babe, exerting no power; now He is the High Pries

in the everlasting temple.

Thou art coming to a king,
Lyrge petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and power are such
None can ever ask too much. d after church?

Well, there are dramatic and musical entertain ments for such as care to go to them; the smplitude of the Park invites the multitude; adjacent cities are in easy reach—but Christmas dinner waits. ing the seed form which grew so fast and led up to half of people who live here and hereabouts it is more than likely four-fifths will tarry home or visit with their friends, while the rest of us work. And after dinner?

That depends. Some old-fashioned people, who now a good thing when they see it, take an early know a good thing when they see it, take an early dinner on Christmas; a dinner which can be shared by the children; a dinner lasting hours, garlanded with homely joy and spiced by domestic love. Such stories as are rehashed, such jokes as are laughed at, such hospitable pressure to "take just a trifle more," such pladges in wine or cider, such general glee and universal stuffing as will be indulged in to-day have been features of civilized life since the earth began and the morning stars sang

Of the joily dogs who will speed their trotters on the road, of the bolsterous roysterers who will make night hideous by their revels and pranks, and of the great army of restless folk who go from place to place in search of a merry Christmas, the Herald has nothing to say. Nor would it be proper to more than peep behind the green decked curtains at the happy circles who will meet to-night, forgetful of the world and by the world forgot, singing, dancing, laughing, chatting-oh, what joyous hours

And the lesson?

It would seem to be easy to learn the lesson of today. As the baby in the stable manger grew to man's estate and thence passed onward and upward to eternal power and honor and a glorious immor-tality, so, starting with this merry Christmas, the humblest man can begin his march with a certainty

of final success, because

Though now ascended up on high,
Christ bends to eight a brother's eye;
Partaker of the luman name,
He knows the frailty of our frame,

From glory to squalor He came, but from squalor back to glory He returned, and that same great com-pany that escorted their Chief from His throne to limit of the heavenly land doubtless met Him with becoming pomp on His return, for, as St. John said, "I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as bride adorned for her husband,"

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Glorious to His native skies! Christ awhite to mortals given, Enters now the highest heaven, Lo, the heaven its Lord receives! Yet He loves the earth He leaven; Though returning to His throne, Still He calls mankind His own.

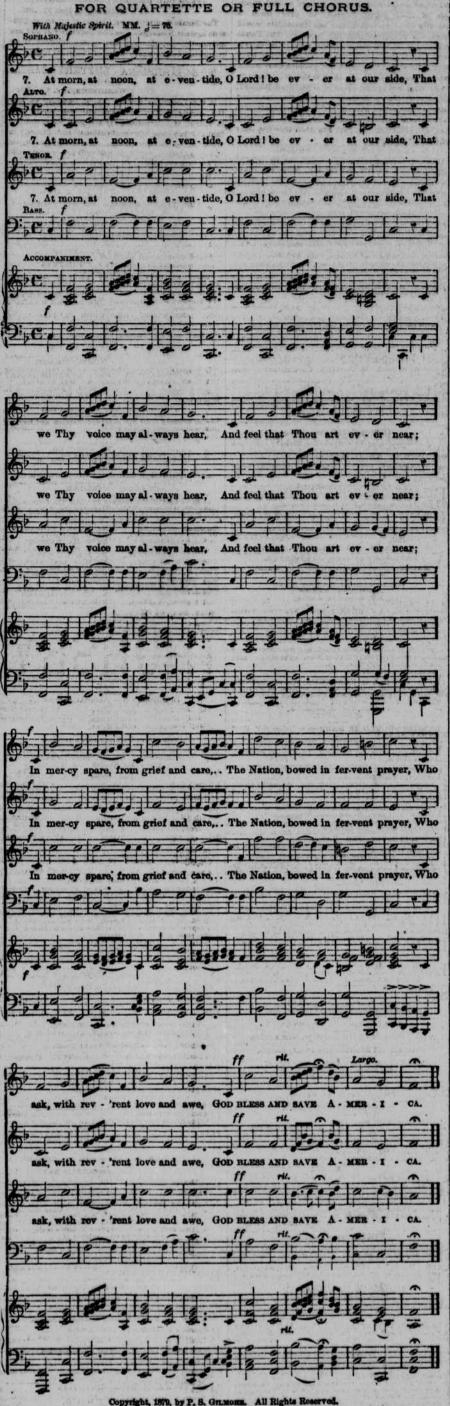
IN THE CHURCHES.

ATTRACTIVE MUSICAL PROGRAMMES AT ALL THE HOUSES OF WORSHIP-"SHOUT THE GLAD TIDINGS !'-- "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS!"

This being a legal heliday all the stores and places of business will be closed and the city will be given up to general rejoicing. In the miust of the given up to general rejoicing. In the midst of the merry-making, however, the churches have not been forgotten. The greater part of them, especially the Catholic and Episcopal places of worship, have been superbly decorated in anticipation of a fine service of song. The music will be especially brilliant. Great preparations have been made in this line, the numerous choirs having been in rehearsal for many weeks. While these celebrations are in progress the poor wards of the city have not been forgotten, and poor wards of the city have not been forgotten, and numbers of charitable associations and individuels will pass the day among the hospitals and public institutions, making gladder the hearts of the in-mates and teaching them to rejoice at the memory or Him who came to bring peace on earth and good

## COLUMBIA.

Mr. P. S. Gilmore's New National Anthem To Be Heard for the First Time this Afternoon.



sion of the birth of his national anthem, "Colum-bia," It is his Christmas offering to the people of public, through the columns of the HERALD, the voice of his poem. To-day he proposes to invest that voice with what he describes as its "soul;" in other words, the melody which he conscientiously believes will become permanent. The composition has already evoked much interest in social and nusical circles, and the Academy bids fair to be thronged by thousands who are curious to listen to a strain of music that has been the subject of so much comment. The interest evinced during the ticipants who were present, representing, as they did, the best choral singers of New York; their quick recognition of the merit of the work, and the carnestness with which they have co-operated with suggestive elements of success. We make no special comment at the present moment concerning the composition. It is enough that it has been brought to the front under the auspices of a macetre who has done much for the entertainment of the public and wall understands its taste. Assum-

the score is simple and the arrangement is within the capabilities of every one who can perform with common facility on the piane. The verse pub-lished is the last in the poem, but is one which Mr. Gilmore believes will be quickly adopted and adapted by the public as expressive of a sacred and yet a national thought. The interest felt in the production is very great, and the fact that it will be given with such grand effects as are likely to will be given with such grand electra as are many to result from an instrumental orchestra comprising representatives from all of the great bands and orchestras of New York and from a combination of choral sociaties, led by Miss Emma Thursby, induces choral societies, led by arise smine reduced, induced the belief that the occasion will be one of unusual interest. It is pleasant to note in this connection that every dollar received will be distributed for benevolent purposes between two of our public in-stitutions—St. Vincont de Paul and St. John's Guild. The hour of the performance is apparently well chosen for a Christmas Day-to wit, between halfpast three and five o'clock.

| ing that he will exhibit the same executive ability

that has been shown in his earlier works, there is good reason to believe that "Columbia" will be

to-day presented with a completeness of enemble and a perfection of detail that will make this Christ-

mas afternoon memorable. It will be observed that the score is simple and the arrangement is within

already published, being a continuation of that which appeared in yesterday's HERALD:-NEW YORK.

CHRIST CHURCH.—Morning \*ervice, half-past ten. The choir, under the direction of Mr. J. Pearce, M. B., will sing the following musical programme;—Processional Hymn No. 117, Mendelssohn; Froper Pasims from Pearce's Pasiler; Te Doum in E. Thomas; Benedicitus, Dudley Buck; Hymn No. 23, Dr. S. Wesley; Kyro, Mendelssohn; Hymn No. 19, Adeste Fideles; offertory, O Holy Night, Adam; Sanctus.

Pearce: Euchariatic Hymn, Bresd of Heaven; Gloria in Excelsis, chant; Nunc Dimmitis, J. Pearce. CHAPLL OF THE HOLK COMPORTER.—Morning ser-vice, eleven o'clock. Opening, Adeste Fideles; canticle for Christmas Day, chant; Gloris, Bridgewater; To Deum Laudamus, Thomas; Jubilate, Bridgewater; Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, Warren. W. H. Warner, organist.

ham: Gloris in Excelsis, Zenner: postinde, pastorsic, Corolli. Sopranoa—Miss K. Coutes, Miss Oliver and Miss Simpson. Altos—Mrs. G. W. Smow and Miss Milson. Tenors—F. S. Lockwood and L. Fullam. Bassos—V. Harris, J. Blackwood and H. Kimball. Organizat and director—G. J. Pattam.

Zhow Gucnell.—Morning prayer and communion, sievan ordiock: Predude, Let the Bright Serablin, Sensen, Handel; processional, On Come, All Ye Faith. The Missis of the Communion of the Comm

SOUTH REFORMED CHURCH.—Corper of Fifth avenue and Twenty-first street; services at M.; sermon by the Rev. Dr. Hevan of Church.

COOPER UNICK.—A reunion of those interested in the Park Theatre and Cooper Union Gospel Services will be held in the parlor of the Young Men's Chris-tian Association at half-past three P. M.; Mr. C. W., Sawyer will preside.

AT THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS. Those who are unable to provide for themselves will not be forgotten on this day of general re-joicing, and all the hearts in the charitable instituions in and about New York will be gladdened. How some of them will be provided for can be seen

How some of them will be provided for can be seen from the following:—

St. Vingent's Home (Father Drumgoole's Mission, No., 55 Warren street).—At noon a Christmas dinner will take place. About four hundred children of the home will dine, besides many of the outside poor, who will be welcomed, without distinction of creed or color, as guests of the intant Saviour. A quantity of good things have been prepared for the dinner, among which are 550 pounds of prime turkey, 125 pounds of beef, 69 pounds of prime turkey, 125 pounds of beef, 69 pounds of prime turkey, 125 pounds of beef, 69 pounds of prime turkey, 125 pounds of beef, 69 pounds of sham, 329 pounds of the richest plum pudding, with sauce; 2½ barrels of potatoes, mashed; 200 large bunches of celery, abundance of cranberry sauce and many other good things. A large Christmas tree is handsomely ornamented with many good things by that old friend of all youngstors, Santa Claus, who on his annual visit never forgets the entildren of St. Vancent's Home.

Howand Mission.—Services begin at one o'clock; doors open at noon. The usual Christmas cheer will be given to its numerous depondants.

FIVE POINTS Mission.—Exercises begin at ton A. M., and will be followed by a distribution of Christmas girts to the 800 children attending the schools of the mission.

BOME FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN,—A Christmas dinner will be given by the trustees to their family of 400 little children at the institution, No. 155 Worth street.

Wilsox Industrial School For Girls.—The fes-

of sol intecements are lasticable, No. 28 worth will be celebrated at the mission building, avenue A and Eighth street, at half-past one P. M. An attractive programme has been arranged, and after its performance the girls will receive a good dinner. Newshors' Hork.—he Christmas dinner to the newshors of this city will take place at the Newshors' House, active will take place at the Newshors' House, at the junction of Chambers and Duane streets, at seven o'clock P. M. It will be provided for the tenth time by William M. Filess.

The Commissioners of Charities and Correction will give the usual dinner of turkey, chicken and other delicacies in all the institutions under their care.

IN THE STREETS AND MARKETS. The scenes in Washington and Fulton markets 1 at night baffle all description. Thousands of per-

sons jostled sgainst each other and rendered the sidewalks all but impassable. The stalls were gorgeous with turkeys, beef, vegetables, evergreens, belly wreaths and every conceivable article which a housewife requires in the preparation of a Christmas dinner with "plum dun." The cheery voice of the butcher mingled with the hearse cry of the toy vender. The plies of paim trees sent out a fragrance which could be scented blocks away, and the hundreds of lights shed a ruddy glare on the moving masses. The whole scene was the very essence of that Christmas poetry which hovers on the edge of the wassail bowl and wines itself around the mistietce bough. The crowds continued until early this morning.

All the uptown thoroughfares, including Sixth. Seventh, Eighth and Third avenues, were crowded with people taking advantage of the opportunity to buy presents for the little ones' stockings. At midnight there was no decrease in the number of pedestrians, as the theatre-goers joined the rest of the crowds at the close of the entertainments. Some magnificant displays were made in the Fourteenth street shop windows, around which crowds collected during the entire evening. The amount of business transacted during the night far exceeded that of any previous Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS IN BROOKLYN. All the public and private schools of Brooklyn closed yesterday afternoon and they will not be reopened until Monday, January 4. Last evening the stores were crowded by people who were busily en-

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES. A CHRISTMASTIDE FESTIVAL AT OLD TRINITY-

edifice, which was hung with evergreens. All the glorious traditions of Trinity in her past were brought to mind by the memorials and sway-

Hence, away, all care and sadness.
Hence and no'er return again:
Amels sing with notes of gladness,
"Fasce on earth, good-will to mea!"
Jols we then in carel free,
"Christia natus hodie."

The "Christmas Tree" was next sung by all children in cherus, during which the immense de of the church were thrown open, revealing Christmas tree in all its glory. It was over twe feet high, and fairly glittered with toys and of ments. This ended the festival.

Late at night the work of decorating the chu for to-day was begun by Mr. Corr and a corps assistants. In the centre of the altar stood a le cross of flowers, over which was hung a white d. This was draped with a curtain formed of an and rossbuds, and the whole surmounted by a cop paim. The front of the altar was festconed withours and evergreens, and the panels were flowers and evergreens, and the panels were five in the company of the company of the company of the chance to the chance bore elegantly wrought angular designs of rare blosoma, from which is trailing vines studded with rosebuds. The entrailing vines studded with rosebuds.

A SPANISH CHRISTMAS EVE.

Throughout Spain, from the royal palace down to the humblest cottage, Christmas Eve is celebrated by the exhibition of plastic tableaux representing the manger of Bethlehem and its inmates, with the manger of Betalencem and its immates, with the shepnerds listening to the angelic song and the three kings of the east or nagi offering presents to the infant Saviour. This custom also prevails throughout Spanish America, usually taking the form of a novens or nine days' celebration of the mystery of the birth of Christ, lasting from December 16 to Christmas. Something of this kind may be seen in many Catholic churches in this city, but it was reserved for Don Carlos Marti, a well known Spanish banker of this city, to carry out this celebration the present year on a scale of magnificence probably nover equalied in America outside of the great cathedrals. At his residence, No. 159 West Forty-ninth street, were gathered last ovening many of the representative men and women or the Spanish colony in this city, including the editors of all the Spanish periodicals in this city, the consuls of various Spanish-American States, several distinguished Cubans, some noted artists, and an enchanting assemblage of dark-haired and dark-oyed selfortas. The Nacimiento or plastic model of the scene at Bethlehem occupied the whole width of the wall of the back parior and a considerable portion of its hoight. The whole city of Jerusalem was there depicted in relief with admirable geographical exactitude, affording a correct idea of the position of the temple, the Mount of Olives, the Mount of Offence, Caivary, the brook Cedron and the valley sloping down rapidly to Bethlehem. At Bethlehem was represented the town, with its walls and towers and the manger with its inmates, represented by porcelain flaures, the infant Swiour lying in a real cradle, while the magnant the shepherds kneel before Him. The whole work was executed under the porsonal superintendence and largely by the hands of Sofor Marth Immelf, whe has devoted to it much of his time for the past three months. Cardinal McCloskey, who viewed it a day or two ago, remarked that only one thing was laoking—to hear the angels sing. The programme of the ovening was chiefly musical, the special feature being the cillancies, or songs of the shepherds, which were admirably rendered (in Spanish) by a numerous chorus. Two or three of the ladies who sang solos proved themselves magnificent artists. We may name among the s form of a novena or nine days' celebration of the mystery of the birth of Christ, lasting from December

## BOULEVARD RAILROAD JOB.

passed resolutions giving the Forty-second Streets. Nicholas Avenue and Manhattanville Railwa Company permission to alter or change its route is such manner as to run cars on the Boulevard and other streets and avenues. The resolutions we other streets and avenues. The resolutions web
passed over the veto of Mayor Ely, and in the gran
it was provided the road was to be equipped and
buils within one year, "unless prevented by legit
proceedings, in which case the delay caused by such
legal proceedings shall be deducted from the
said one year." Those interested in the road
recently asked the present Common Council
for permission to extend the time for the completion of their road, and their request was granted.
It was found, however, that the action of the Aldermen would not benefit the company, because it was
known that Mayor Cooper would veto the resolution, and the present Beard would not have time to
pass the measure over His Honor's veto. In this
dilemmant now appears that the railroad company
have resorted to other measures to gain their point.
A triendly injunction, it is said, has been issued restraining the company from laying their tracks or
in any way trying to construct the road. This injunction can be allowed to stand any time, and as
the original grant to the corporation provides for
the deduction of all legal delays from the year given
to the company to equip the road it will be seen that
the company is master or the situation.